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- ISSUE NO 1

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Number 1.

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A L B I O N
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July 2nd. 1969.

ALBION is a journal of postal Diplomacy, edited and published by Don Turnbull, 6 St. George's Avenue, Timperley, Cheshire, England.

The subscription rates to players participating in ALBION games is announced at the start of such games. To all others, the present subscription is 6d. per issue, including postage within the British Isles and Ireland. Overseas subscription currently available by all-for-all trade only: for special non-trade rates apply to the editor.

ALBION records the progress of postal Diplomacy games taking place within the British region of AHIKS, or within the area covered by the British region, AHIKS membership apart.

Diplomacy is a game manufactured and sold by Games Research Inc., 48 Wareham Street, Boston, Mass. 02118, U.S.A. For availability within the British Isles consult the editor.

Cover by George Forster.

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Yes, dear reader, this is ALBION, a Diplomacy magazine of no distinction whatever. Note particularly the miscellany of rubbish which pervades this, the first, issue. Responsible for this pitiful array of nonsense is the editor, aided and abetted by any other person who cares to submit his/her own particular brand for publication.

It is well known that a Diplomacy magazine has never before been produced in the British Isles. Such publications are, of course, common in the U.S.A. where Diplomacy has been played by post for many years. It is to mark the rising interest in the game among players in the British Isles that ALBION is issued.

One pauses at this juncture to reflect on the probable ultimate destination of ALBION. Some copies are to go to the U.S.A., where they will no doubt be burned on sight. Others will go the length and breadth of Great Britain; they will appear in dentists' waiting rooms, on railway platforms - even in those little bins dotted about the streets which no-one seems to use. Some may be preserved by players, and it will be noticed that the far-sighted editor, in the firm belief that there are degrees of insanity, has left sufficient space in the left hand margin to allow the issues to be filed in one magnificent composite. Also, writing appears on one side of the paper only - at least it will look comprehensive.

Somebody might even read the thing.....

REPORT.

ALBION 69/1.

Spring 1901

The players:-

Austro-Hungary:- Michael Nethercot, 20 Moray Close, Rise Park, Romford, Essex.
England:- John D. Munro, 14 New Lane, New Haven, Edinburgh EH6 4JE, Scotland.
France:- Malcolm Watson, 3 Hawthorn Avenue, Timperley, Cheshire.
Germany:- Colin Newcombe, 115 Longdown Road, Congleton, Cheshire.
Italy:- John G. Robertson, Upper Dunglass, Arbroath Road, Dundee DD5 1QN, Scotland.
Russia:- Chris Hancock, 135 Baddow Road, Chelmsford, Essex.
Turkey:- David J. Wood, 60 Woodgate Avenue, Church Lawton, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 3EF, Staffs.

The moves:-

Austria (Nethercot): A(Bud)-Ser. F(Tri) stands.
A(Vie) S F(Tri).
England (Munro): No orders received. All units stand in place.
France (Watson): A(Par)-Pic. A(Mar)-Bur.
F(Bre)-MAO.
Germany (Newcombe): A(Ber)-Sil. A(Mun)-Ruh.
F(Kie)-Den.
Italy (Robertson): A(Rom)-Ven. A(Ven)-Tyr.
F(Nap)-TYS.
Russia (Hancock): F(StP)-GoB. A(War) stands.
F(Sev)-Rum. A(Mos)-Liv.
Turkey (Wood): A(Con)-Bul. A(Smy) stands.
F(Ank)-Con.

Notation:- A=army. F=fleet. S=supports.
Underlined moves fail.

Deadline for Autumn 1901 orders - Monday July 21st.

PRESS RELEASES.

Vienna.

Informed sources here have neither confirmed or denied reports that Russian Foreign Minister due tomorrow. Increasing diplomatic activity in European capitals is seen as proof of deteriorating international situation.

Believed that Austrian government is to increase military spending by almost two million schillings. Rumours that Dreadnought type battleships under construction in secret Adriatic naval base. The foreign office here will be communicating with other powers respecting the sovereign rights of this state in the Balkans. Public opinion has hardened considerably regarding aspirations of Slav nationalists. Certain respected leaders suggest that detente with Turkey and Russia is the aim of Austro-Hungarian foreign policy. Should agreement between these powers be forthcoming pressure will be applied to secure German co-operation.

There is no doubt that the appointment of a new Prime Minister is likely following the disclosures in the widely publicised Latinsky trial. The Emperor can no longer delay major reshuffle.

Overheard in the Strasserplatz - "By Gad, Sir, you wait till the Hussars get at 'em".

Rome.

I am instructed to inform you by His Majesty, King Victor Emmanuel XXXIX that, having no reply to our repeated requests for the return of the Province of Tyrol to our beloved Motherland, we, the peace-loving and friendly Nation of the Two Italies, have been forced to place our Armies and Navy on a war footing. Orders have been dispatched to the Area Commanders for immediate mobilisation, and, in view of the continued aggression by the Austrian-Hungarian Emperor, a jumped-up Germanic barbarian, who cannot trace his ancestry back more than 100 years (unlike our revered Monarch, who can trace his back to the foundation of Rome) we have decided that, in order to defend ourselves against the armed might of the Germanic, Slavonic, Hungarian and other foreign hordes who continually menace our borders, we must act immediately to preserve the sacredness of our mother soil inviolate from these modern Huns.

As a result, we have been forced to order our Armies and Fleet as detailed.

If Austria-Hungary accedes to our just demands, we will be perfectly satisfied, and start to de-mobilise our armies immediately, as we assure the other peace-loving nations of Europe that we hold no ambitions of territorial gain, and only act to defend ourselves from any hostile acts.

PRESS RELEASES

Rome (contd).

In the name of peace and universal brotherhood, we beseech our brothers to respect our territories.

VIVA ITALIA! VIVA PACE!

(Signed by) Giovanni Lollobrigida.

Berlin.

As all can plainly see, the German forces have been deployed in the defence of the Fatherland, against the possible threat of invasion from rapacious neighbours. Despite the militarist mould into which the Kaiser's government has been cast by unfavourable propaganda, nothing is further from our minds than an incursion into the territory of our much respected neighbours. Indeed, as is obvious from the deployment, our war machine is to show its full efficiency only against unprotected neutrals like Denmark and Holland.

As testimony of our underlying pacifism, we have refused all attempts by Great Britain and France to include us in their anti-Russian coalition - why should we let the Fatherland be used as the battle-ground for these foreign interests? Our only concern is that Russia should not therefore join a Franco-British coalition against ourselves (as we believe the French government will have re-applied its policy to this end); hence the defensive position of our army in Silssia. We wish to make it plain to all that we are most amicably disposed towards Russia.

Austria's approaches seem the most favourable to this government, but we realise that the treacherous Italians are planning a blow against Austria, and thus their approaches to us have met with a stony silence.

Turkey seems to be a silent member of the European community as far as this government is concerned. If they are planning anything against us, this government issues the solemn warning of a united crusade to throw these Moslem interlopers from their precarious toe-hold on our Christian Europe.

So perish any traitors of the Italian ilk!

"
Below.

Constantinople.

The press is silent - no news has reached the Central Agency.

PRESS RELEASES

Moscow.

RUSSIAN FORCES ON THE MOVE!

The Swedish Government has appealed to the Tzar for support against threatened armed aggression against its territory. In reply the Tzar has ordered the Saint Petersburg fleet to sail to Sweden immediately in order to protect the Swedish people. In a statement to the Grand Russian Council the Minister of War today stated that the Russian people would not stand by and see Europe thrown into a blood bath. The move of ships to Sweden, he said, was only a first step in the process of securing frontiers for that country. Any country threatening Sweden in any way would feel the full weight of Russian forces, together with the forces of her allies.

After much discussion with other interested parties, the Minister said that the Black Sea fleet would be occupying Rumania immediately. This would give added security to the Russian people living in provinces bordering on the Black Sea and would be a first step in the solution of the Balkan Issue which has been troubling the nation for so long.

Moving on to the note received from the Italian government, the Minister issued a strong reply. He said that any government which attempted to annex any portion of the Mediterranean would be entirely responsible for the consequences. The pathetic attempt to prop up a dwindling regime by armed force is deplorable in so far as it threatens the livelihoods of peoples in the surrounding areas. Any encroachment onto foreign soil by the forces of the Italian people would be regarded seriously in Moscow. It would display that the Italian people were wanting war with the rest of Europe. This would be met by the forces of the Tzar.

At the end of his speech he said that the Italians should stay in their hovels in Rome and savour the past, since any encroachment by them onto foreign soil would surely mean that they have no future.

Paris.

It is with deep regret that His Majesty (and my wonderful uncle) Charles De Gaul, notes the threatening gestures made by a number of neighbouring countries. He has instructed me to give notice that France will stand for no nonsense on her borders, or in her protectorates; any country with ambitions towards those (which are of course the Lowlands) will be met immediately and unflinchingly by the might of French arms.

(contd)

Page 6.

PRESS RELEASES.

Paris (contd).

All exports of champagne, frogs legs and snails will be cancelled immediately for use in the war effort. French showgirls will be recalled home and their elastic garters commandeered by our mighty Air Force to make our wonderful planes fly. Aforementioned snails and frogs legs will be strewn in the path of any would-be invader to hinder movement of arms and equipment. To add to his discomfiture corks will be fired in salvo from our 305mm champagne bottles. Our ladies of pleasure will be sent amongst his troops to impede their progress, and we'll chuck the Tour de France (which I may say is the tallest tower we have) at the rest.

My uncle also directs me to extend the hand of friendship to one and all.

Malcolm de Gaul.

London.

The English press is silent. No news has reached the Central Agency.

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A NOTE ON NOMENCLATURE.

Many questions have been asked concerning the choice of name for this illustrious magazine. Now is the time to lift the veil of secrecy and reveal all.

ALBION is the ancient name for the island of Britain. The name can be found in any good encyclopaedia between ALBINUS, DECIMUS CLODIUS SEPTIMUS and ALBITE (see FELDSPAR) - which is as good a place as any.

The derivation of the name, from the Latin albus (meaning white), is taken by most historical scholars as a reference to the white cliffs of Dover.

Most historical scholars are, regrettably, wrong.

It is obvious to everyone that the name refers to the pure unsullied character of the British people.

Thus the title is regarded as being most suitable for this magazine, whose characteristics fit the above description admirably.

MISCELLANY.

System for builds.

After each Autumn move, and after all retreats have been made, players will be asked to submit orders for builds according to the number of supply centres controlled. Should removals be required, these will be requested at the same time.

A single page supplement of ALBION will be published to report builds and removals, and this supplement will be issued between the Autumn move and the subsequent Spring move. This supplement will also carry the deadline date for the Spring orders to follow. Press releases etc. will not be carried in the supplement.

The supplement will be issued to players only; however the information it carries will be duplicated in the next full issue of ALBION.

If necessary, a supplement will also be issued between Spring and Autumn moves to confirm Spring retreats, when these occur. This irregular supplement will operate on the same lines as the regular supplement (i.e. no press releases etc).

Articles.

Articles for publication in ALBION would be welcomed. Submissions should be typed, please.

Clearly such articles must be Diplomacy-orientated; other articles not related to Diplomacy may be submitted for publication in the regional bulletin.

NOTE that STRATEGY AND TACTICS carries a regular article on Diplomacy, written by Rod Walker.

Also note that volume 1 number 8 of S&T is the Diplomacy Special Issue, with articles by Rod Walker, John McCallum and John Boardman, all important contributors to the expansion of Diplomacy as a hobby. This issue is rather difficult to obtain, but I will loan my copy to anyone interested who cannot obtain one.

Trades.

Trades for ALBION have already been arranged with the following American Diplomacy magazines:-

EREHWON published by Rod Walker, 1575-A White Drive, Rantoul, Illinois 61866.

VIMY VICTORS and LAURANIA published by John McCallum, A Quarters, S.E.S., Ralston, Alberta, Canada.

Anyone who is interested in seeing copies of the above may borrow mine for a limited period on application.

THIS PAGE RESERVED FOR YOUR ARTICLES, LETTERS, BARED
COMMENTS, LIBELLOUS CARTOONS, MERRY QUIPS, COMPLAINTS
AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS NONSENSE.

It also serves to make the magazine look bigger, and
to keep the previous page clean.